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In the claims:

Please cancel claims 8 and 11-14 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a later-filed application. Please amend claims 7 and 9-10 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) as follows. A marked up version of amended claims 7 and 9-10 wherein the deleted material is in brackets and the inserted material is underlined is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Please also add new claims 15-17.

--7. (Amended) An agent determined to be capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, but not a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, using a method which comprises:

- (a) contacting (i) a first appropriate CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, which is labeled with a first dye, with (ii) a cell expressing an HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein of the macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 on its surface, which is labeled with a second dye, in the presence of an excess of the agent under conditions which would normally permit the fusion of the CD4<sup>+</sup> cell to the cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein on its surface in the absence of the agent, the first and second dyes being selected so as to allow resonance energy transfer between the dyes;
- (b) exposing the product of step (a) to conditions which would result in resonance energy transfer if fusion has occurred; and
- (c) determining whether there is a reduction of resonance energy transfer, when compared with the resonance energy transfer in the absence of the agent;
- (d) contacting (i) a second appropriate CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, which is



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labeled with a first dye, with (ii) a cell expressing an HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein of a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 on its surface, which is labeled with a second dye, in the presence of an excess of the agent under conditions which would normally permit the fusion of the CD4<sup>+</sup> cell to the cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein on its surface in the absence of the agent, the first and second dyes being selected so as to allow resonance energy transfer between the dyes;

- (e) exposing the product of step (d) to conditions which would result in resonance energy transfer if fusion has occurred;
- (f) determining whether there is a reduction of resonance energy transfer, when compared with the resonance energy transfer in the absence of the agent; and
- (g) comparing the determination made in step (c) with the determination made in step (f), wherein a decrease in transfer in step (c) but not in step (f) indicates that the agent is capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of the macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to CD4<sup>+</sup> cells, but not capable of specifically inhibiting the fusion of a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to the CD4<sup>+</sup> cells.--

--9. (Amended) An agent capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of a macrophage tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 with a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell susceptible to infection by a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1.--

--10. (Amended) A method of inhibiting fusion of a macrophage-



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tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 with a CD4+ cell susceptible to infection by a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 which comprises contacting the CD4+ cell with an agent capable of specifically inhibiting such fusion in an amount effective to inhibit such fusion so as to thereby inhibit such fusion.--

--15. (New) An antibody determined to be capable of specifically inhibiting the fusion of a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4+ cell, but not a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4+ cell, using a method which comprises:

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- (a) contacting (i) a first appropriate CD4+ cell, which is labeled with a first dye, with (ii) a cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein of the macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 on its surface, which is labeled with a second dye, in the presence of an excess of the antibody under conditions which would normally permit the fusion of the CD4+ cell to the cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein on its surface in the absence of the antibody, the first and second dyes being selected so as to allow resonance energy transfer between the dyes;
  - (b) exposing the product of step (a) to conditions which would result in resonance energy transfer if fusion has occurred; and
  - (c) determining whether there is a reduction of resonance energy transfer, when compared with the resonance energy transfer in the absence of the



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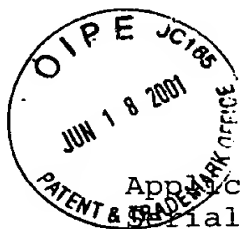
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antibody;

- (d) contacting (i) a second appropriate CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, which is labeled with a first dye, with (ii) a cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein of a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 on its surface, which is labeled with a second dye, in the presence of an excess of the antibody under conditions which would normally permit the fusion of the CD4<sup>+</sup> cell to the cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein on its surface in the absence of the antibody, the first and second dyes being selected so as to allow resonance energy transfer between the dyes;
- (e) exposing the product of step (d) to conditions which would result in resonance energy transfer if fusion has occurred;
- (f) determining whether there is a reduction of resonance energy transfer, when compared with the resonance energy transfer in the absence of the antibody; and
- (g) comparing the determination made in step (c) with the determination made in step (f), wherein a decrease in transfer in step (c) but not in step (f) indicates that the antibody is capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of the macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to CD4<sup>+</sup> cells, but not capable of specifically inhibiting the fusion of a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to the CD4<sup>+</sup> cells.--

--16. (New)

An antibody capable of specifically inhibiting the



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fusion of a macrophage tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 with a CD4+ cell susceptible to infection by a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1.--

--17. (New)

A method of inhibiting fusion of a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 with a CD4+ cell susceptible to infection by a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 which comprises contacting the CD4+ cell with an amount of an antibody capable of specifically inhibiting such fusion so as to thereby inhibit such fusion.--

--18.

(New) A method of preparing a composition which comprises:

(a) determining whether an agent is capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4+ cell, but not a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4+ cell, using a method which comprises:

(1) contacting (i) a first appropriate CD4+ cell, which is labeled with a first dye, with (ii) a cell expressing an HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein of the macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 on its surface, which is labeled with a second dye, in the presence of an excess of the agent under conditions which would normally permit the fusion of the CD4+ cell to the cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein on its surface in the absence of the agent, the first and second dyes being

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selected so as to allow resonance energy transfer between the dyes;

- (2) exposing the product of step (1) to conditions which would result in resonance energy transfer if fusion has occurred;
- (3) determining whether there is a reduction of resonance energy transfer, when compared with the resonance energy transfer in the absence of the agent;
- (4) contacting (i) a second appropriate CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, which is labeled with a first dye, with (ii) a cell expressing an HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein of a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 on its surface, which is labeled with a second dye, in the presence of an excess of the agent under conditions which would normally permit the fusion of the CD4<sup>+</sup> cell to the cell expressing the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein on its surface, in the absence of the agent, the first and second dyes being selected so as to allow resonance energy transfer between the dyes;
- (5) exposing the product of step (4) to conditions which would result in resonance energy transfer if fusion has occurred;
- (6) determining whether there is a reduction of resonance energy transfer, when compared with the resonance energy transfer in the absence of the agent; and
- (7) comparing the determination made in step (3)

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contd.



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with the determination made in step (6), wherein a decrease in transfer in step (3) but not in step (6) indicates that the agent is capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of the macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to CD4<sup>+</sup> cells, but not capable of specifically inhibiting the fusion of a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to the CD4<sup>+</sup> cells;

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*amended.*
- (b) obtaining the agent determined to be capable of specifically inhibiting fusion of a macrophage-tropic primary isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell, but not a T cell-tropic isolate of HIV-1 to a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell according to step (a) ; and
  - (c) mixing the agent with a carrier.--

--19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the agent is an antibody.--

#### REMARKS

Claims 7-14 are pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove canceled claims 8 and 11-14 without prejudice or disclaimer to their right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a later-filed application, amended claims 7 and 9-10 and added new claims 15-19. Support for this amendment may be found inter alia in the specification as follows: claim 7: page 19, line 34 to page 20, line 26; pages 61-64; claims 9-10: page 22, lines 16-23; claim 15: page 19, lines 12-32; page 20, lines 28-32; page 26, line 34; pages 61-64; claims 16-17: page 20, lines 28-31. claims 18-19: see support for claim 7; page 20, line 33; page 31, lines 1-3; page 36, line 35; page 48, line 6. This amendment does